

Panodic DVD320

- *two-in-one set-top box with excellent OSD user interface*
- *accepts all video formats*
- *1080p video output available*
- *suitable also for visually impaired users*
- *fast DVB-T channel search*



DVB-T

Entertainment Out of the Box – With a Single Box!

Even at first sight the build quality of the DVD320 is truly impressive. Once again, Panodic shows that receivers don't necessarily have to look bland, dull and uninspiring. What a welcome change! The front panel of this DVB-T receiver with integrated DVD player features the disc tray as well as three buttons for operating the device without the remote control. Added to that are a segment display and an easily accessible USB port. The back panel of the DVD320 sports the RF input and output sockets for DVB-T reception, plus a total of six RCA jacks for stereo audio, composite video and YUV, apart from an HDMI socket. Added to that is a digital audio output that is, however, only available as a coax socket without an optical counterpart.

The remote control that is shipped with the DVD320 has to take care of both receiver and DVD functions, which means the number of buttons is on the high side. Nonetheless, Panodic did a great job and whizzed up an easy-to-use layout which requires little to no familiarisation so that first-time users should also

get the hang of it in next to no time at all. In general, the remote control is quite large due to the many buttons that are required for efficient operation.

While the level of workmanship and the build quality of the DVD320 deserve our highest praise we would have appreciated a second USB port on the back panel for a permanently attached external USB storage medium.

If you take the remote control in your hand for the first time you'll probably notice a key labelled DVD/STB right away. You might suspect why it's there, and you'll get proof as soon as you turn on the box. Rather than integrating DVD functions into the DVB-T receiver software Panodic has opted to neatly create two fully independent environments (DVB-T reception and DVD player) in a single box, using the same signal outputs. So the DVD/STB button on the remote is your point of departure and takes you to one of the two environments. The great thing is that you can switch between modes no matter what the box is currently up to. This interest-

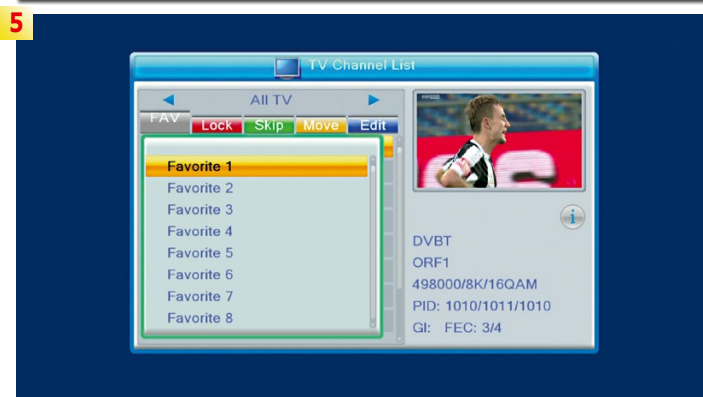
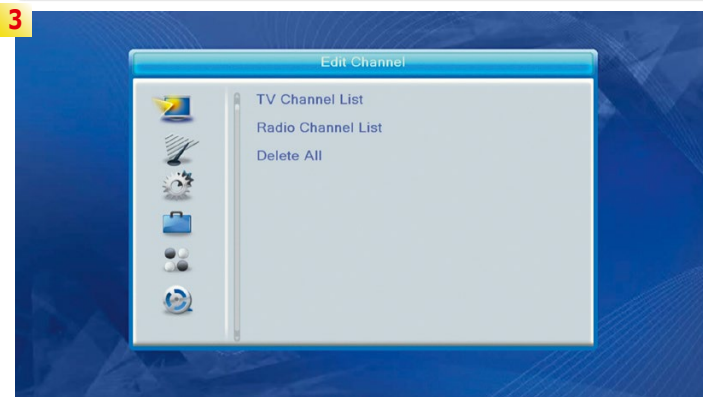
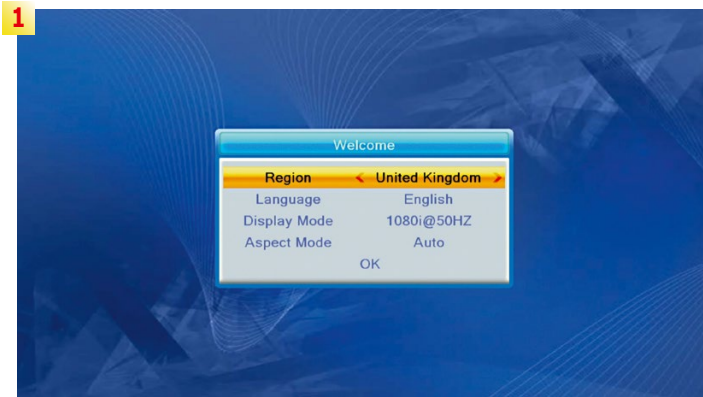
ing overall strategy deserves a closer look, which is why this test report also consists of two sections, dealing with DVB-T functions and DVD features individually.

When you switch on the DVB-T receiver for the very first time it wants to find out your exact reception region, as well as your preferred OSD language, video output resolution and aspect ratio. We did like the fact that the DVD320 supports all major European languages and also provides its video output in 1080p 50/60Hz quality, if desired. While this represents the top of the line video resolution, the following options

are available as well: 480i, 480p, 576i, 576p, 720p 50 Hz, 720p 60 Hz, 1080i 50 Hz and 1080i 60 Hz. If you don't want to decide yourself you can also leave it to the box by selecting either "By Native TV" (highest supported resolution of the attached TV panel) or "By Source" (resolution of the source material). The initial set-up is completed with a channel search, which in our case only took two minutes and four seconds and detected all available DVB-T frequencies at our location.

The main menu of the DVD320 is of the classic kind, which means it is easy to navigate and makes for a straightforward user experience – just what we expect from Panodic. It goes without saying that the whole range of channel editing options are available, so that users can easily rename, move, sort, PIN-lock or delete individual entries. A





total of eight favourites lists can be set up so that each family member can customise his or her own list, or you may opt to create genre lists or be creative in any other way. If you use an indoor antenna with active signal amplification you'll be happy to know that the DVD320 can be set to provide the required voltage via the coax cable. The large range of personalisation options is completed by a number of OSD adjustments, the possibility to activate audio description of images by default and to turn on or off the automatic time-shift buffer.

During everyday use we noticed that the Panodic DVD320 reacts very swiftly to all commands sent from the remote control and that the OSD design makes for an above average user experience. Every time a new channel is selected the inserted info bar presents the title of the current and next event for a few seconds. Of course an electronic program guide (EPG) is available as well, showing the current and next events for five channels at a time. Since the DVD320 is a PVR receiver timer entries can be created right from EPG view by simply clicking on the event that should be recorded. Unfortunately, the number of timer entries is limited to eight events.

If you want to switch to another channel you can either press the OK button to call up the overall channel list or go to one of the favourites lists. New channels appeared in less than one second in our test, which adds tremendous fun to zapping. We also liked the smart integration and implementation of all PVR features: Up to two recordings can take place simultaneously while a third event is being watched live. Channels that are not available for live viewing due to recordings taking place automatically disappear from the channel list, so it's all a very straightforward affair of what you see is what you get. The Panodic DVD320 also comes with goodies such as an integrated OSD tele-

text decoder, dedicated menu buttons for language selection and subtitles, multi-picture mode for an overview of what's showing on different channels, and – last but by no means least – software updates via the USB port. MP3 music files as well as video files in the AVCHD, AVI, DivX, Flash, Full HD, MOV, MP4, MPEG, TS and WMV formats can be played back flawlessly and if you want to use your TV panel for a slideshow with your latest holiday photos we can confirm that both JPEG and BMP images work nicely and add the finishing touches to the already wide range of features of this Panodic box.

When compared with all the DVB-T options, the DVD mode of the DVD320 has not even half the features and functions. But then again, this was to be expected in the first place. We did appreciate the fact that the DVD player willingly accepted and played back the DVD+- R/RW, VCD, CD, CD-R and CD-RW formats, which leaves nothing to desire. In addition, it can be used as a fully-fledged multimedia jukebox for a wide range of file formats. In DVD player mode, the video output resolution can be set at 480p, 576p, 720p, 1080i and 1080p, or the DVD320 can be set to automatically use the

1. Initial set-up of the Panodic DVD320

2. DVB-T channel search

3. Main menu of the Panodic DVD320

4. Channel list editing

5. A total of eight favourites lists are available

6. The DVB-T receiver offers either an automatic or a manual search

7. Manual channel search

8. The automatic search can be restricted to free-to-air channels

9. Language settings

10. Adjusting the video output resolution

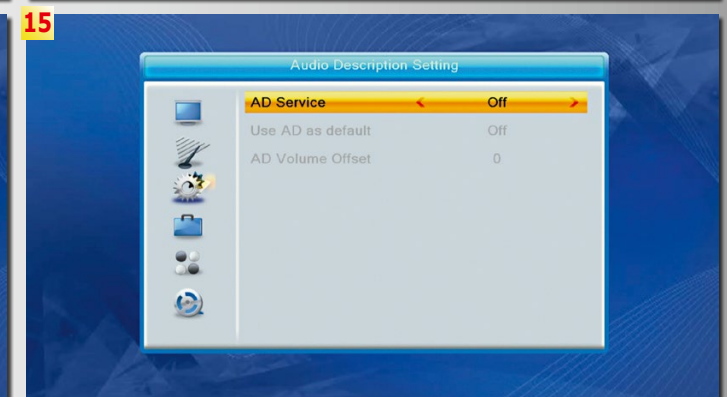
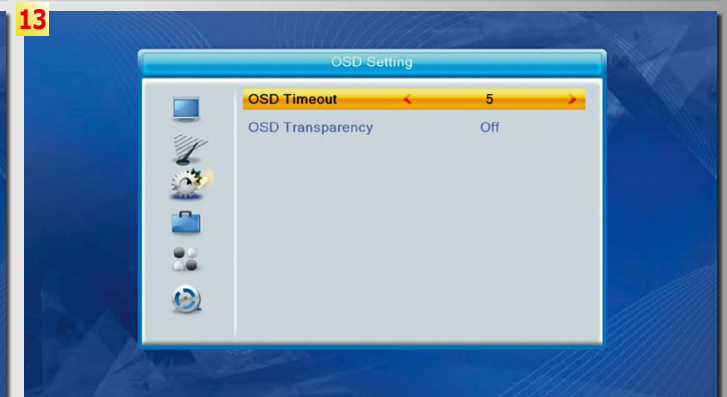
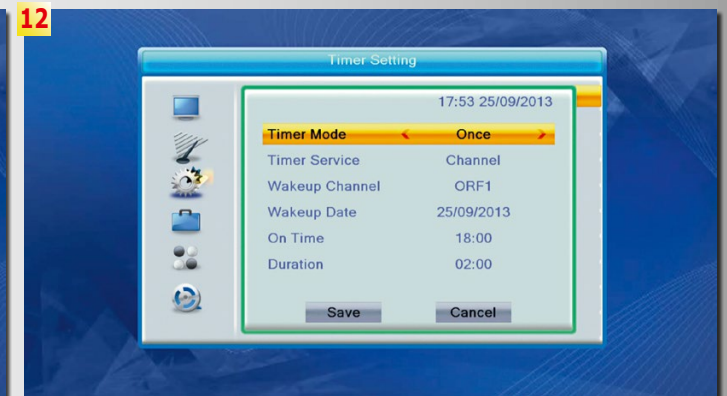
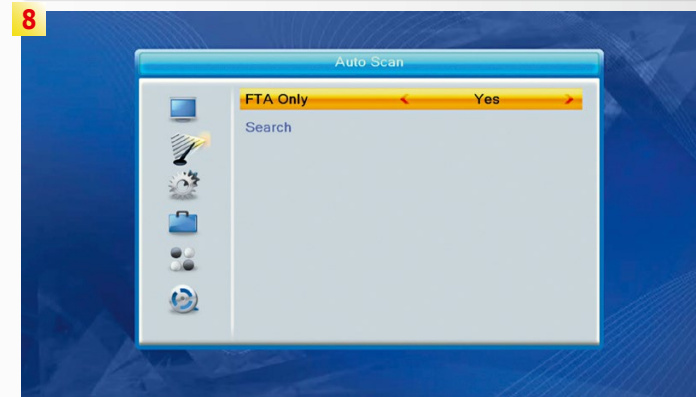
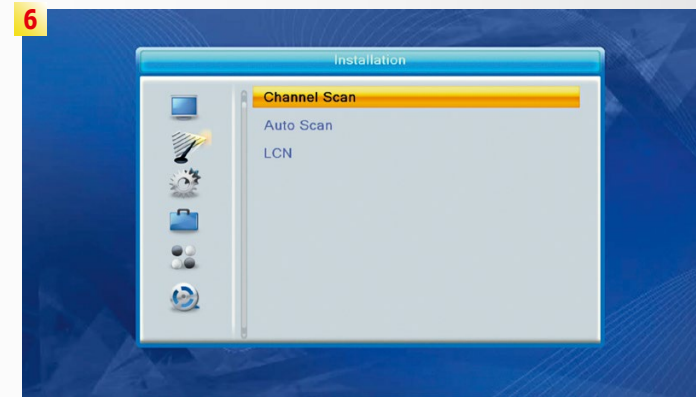
11. Setting the internal clock

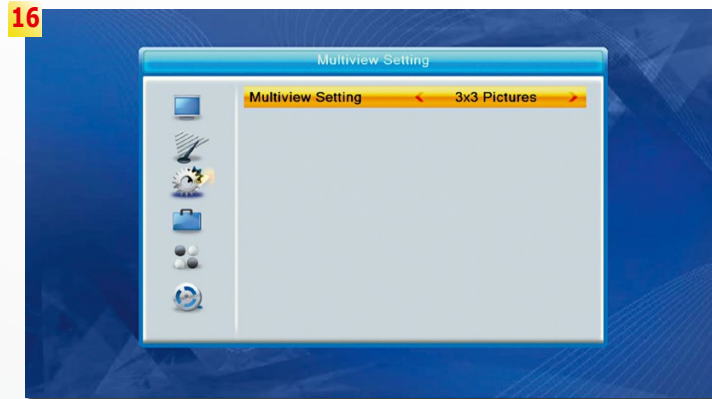
12. A total of eight timer entries can be created

13. OSD settings

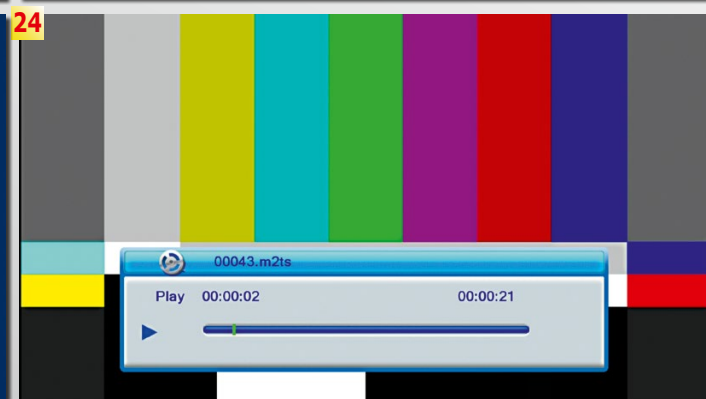
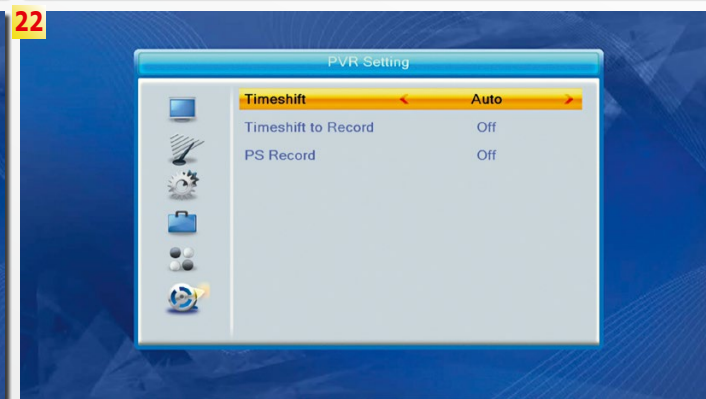
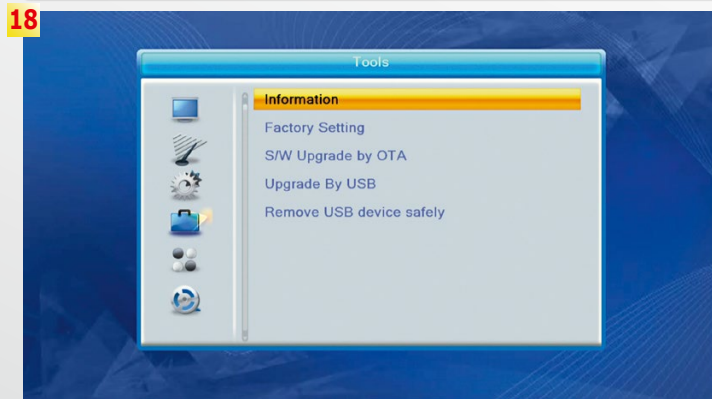
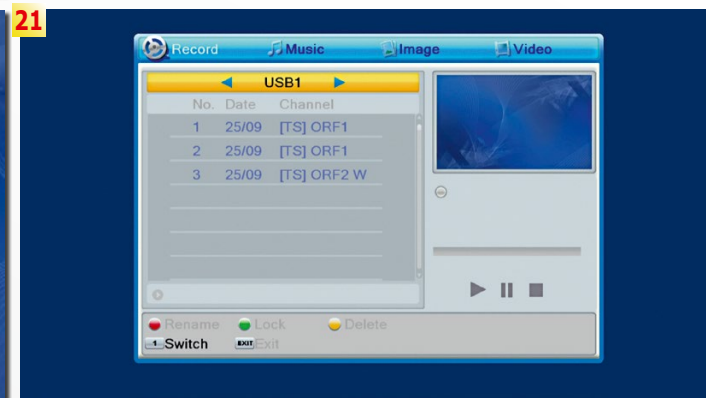
14. Favourites lists can be given individual names

15. Visually impaired users can permanently activate audio description of images



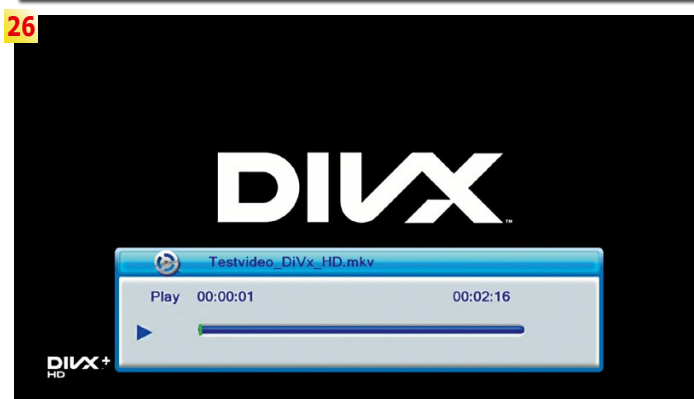
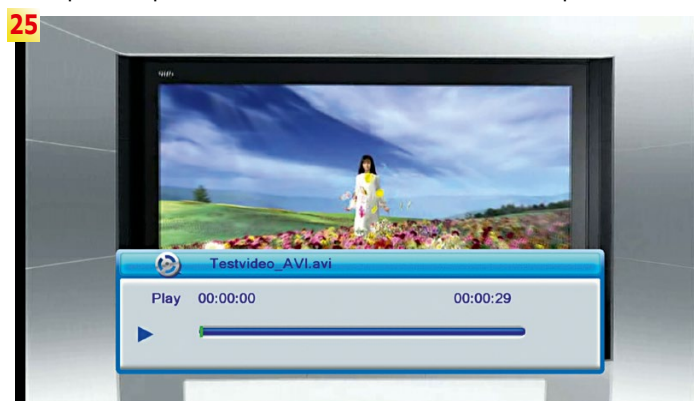


16. The video of several channels can be presented in multi-view mode
17. If an indoor antenna with active signal amplification is used, the DVD320 provides the required voltage right via the coax cable
18. Software updates of the Panodic DVD320 are possible through the USB port
19. The integrated media player handles a large variety of file formats
20. All tested video files were played back flawlessly
21. Overview of existing recordings
22. PVR settings
23. MP3 playback
24. M2TS video playback



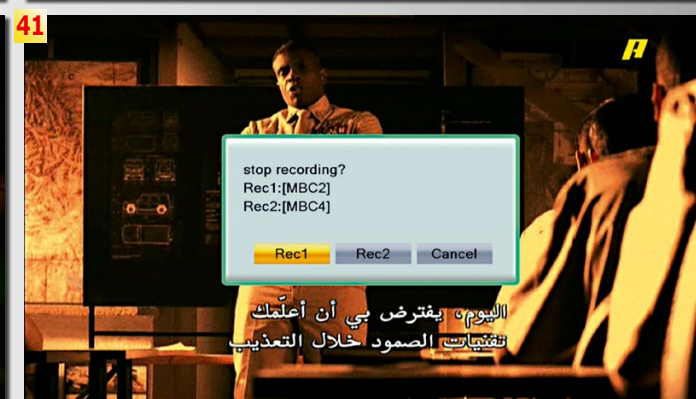
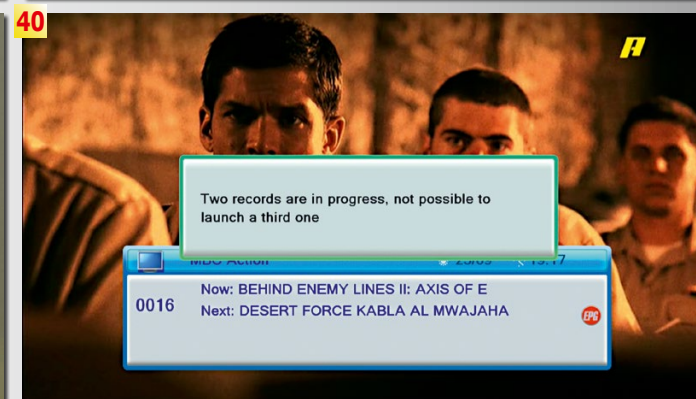
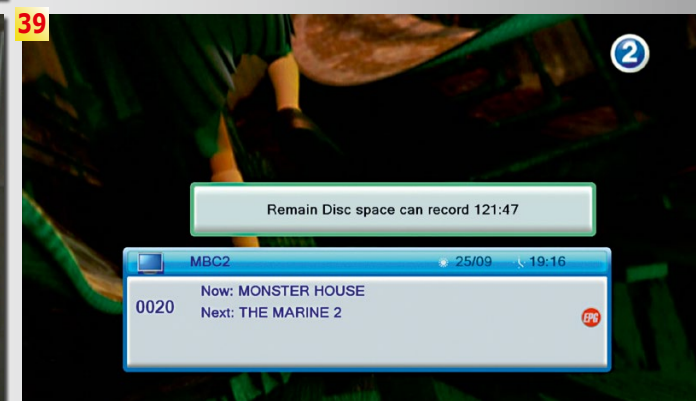
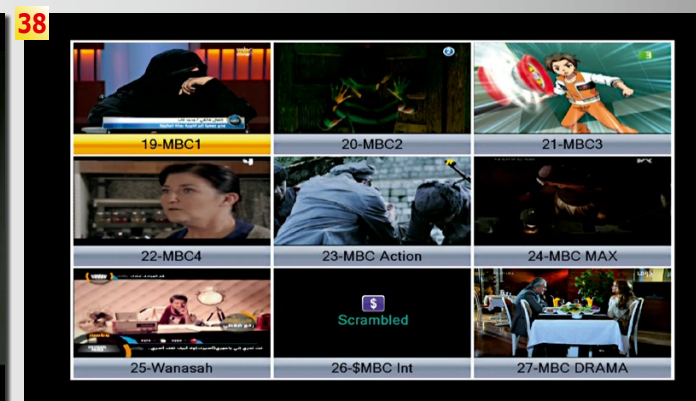
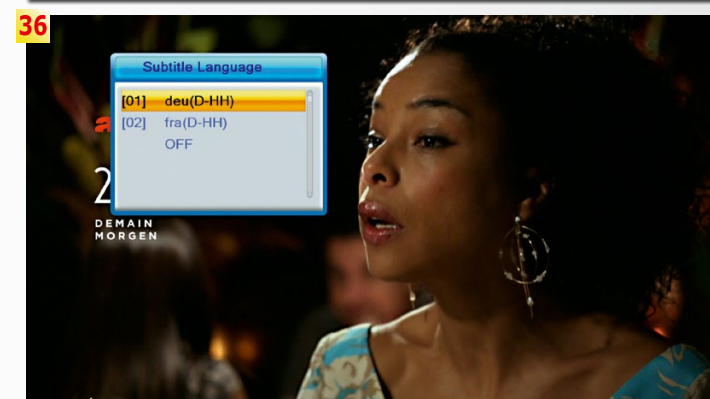
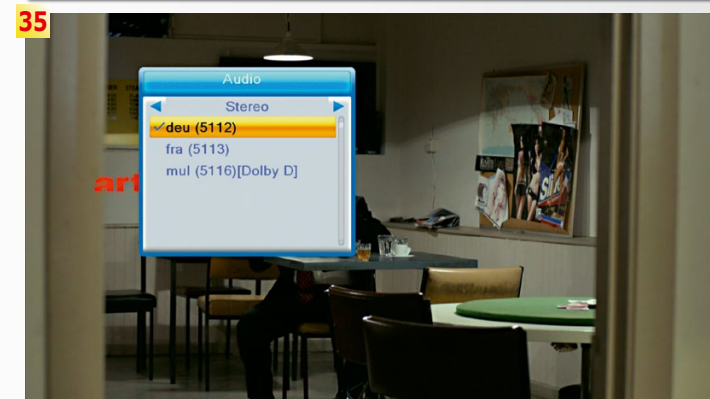
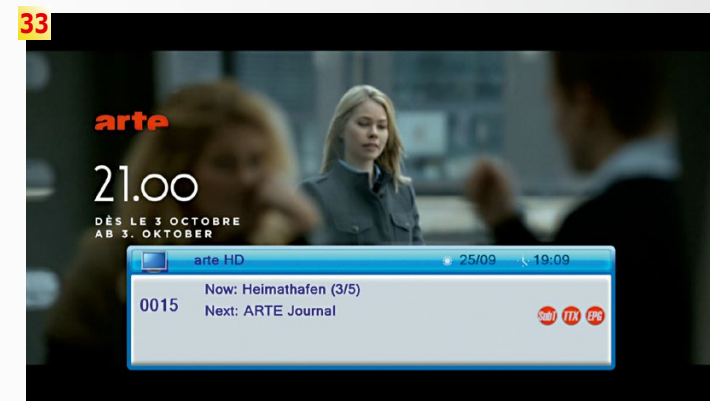
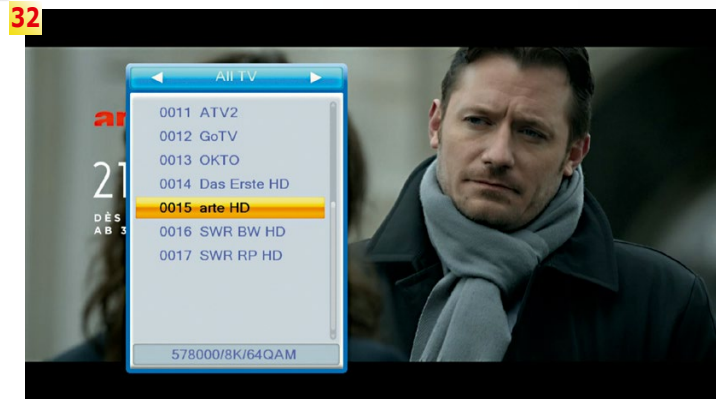
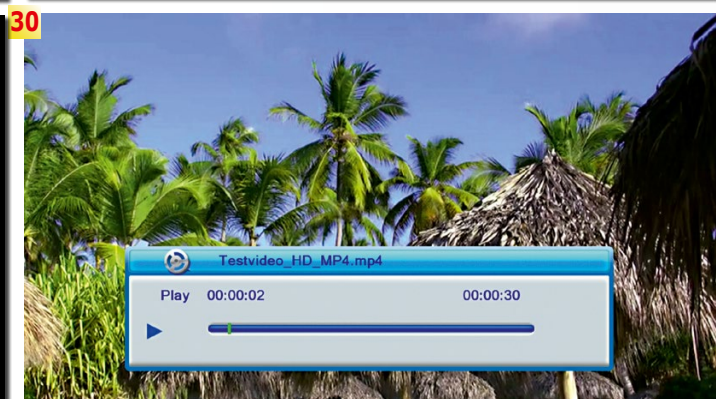
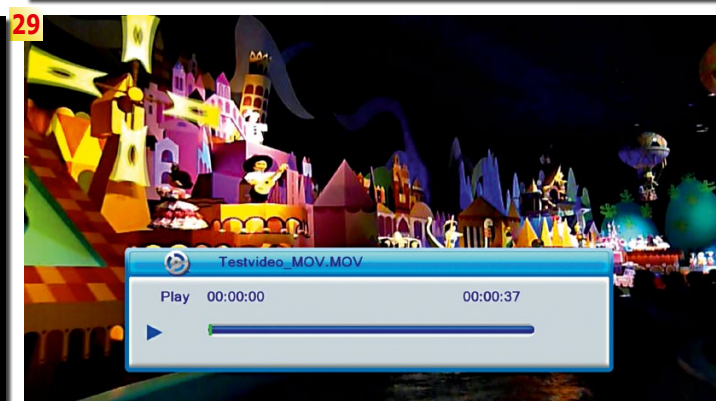
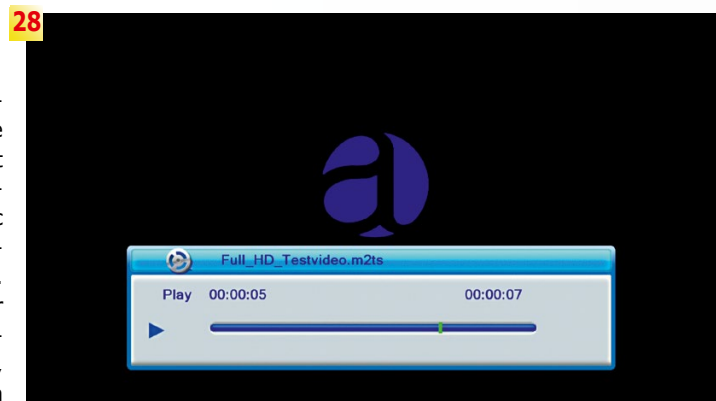
resolution of the DVD source material. While some options are available, these are more limited than those in DVB-T mode. A child lock system can be activated and you may set the player to remember the last position of a playback so that you can continue from that precise point.

Never taking a manufacturer's word for anything, we threw a number of different DVDs and CDs, including rewritable discs, at the Panodic DVD320 and the box was happy with each and any of them. By comparison, many other DVD players we had used before were far less accepting, so it's thumbs up from us in

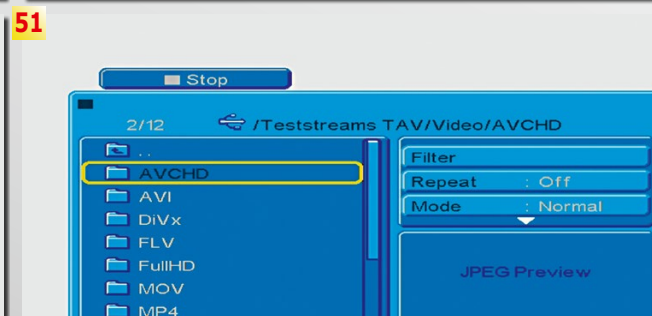
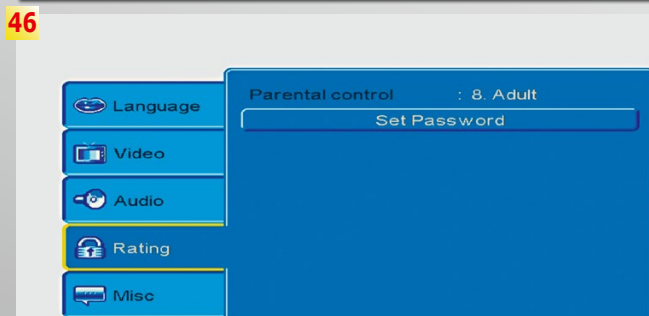
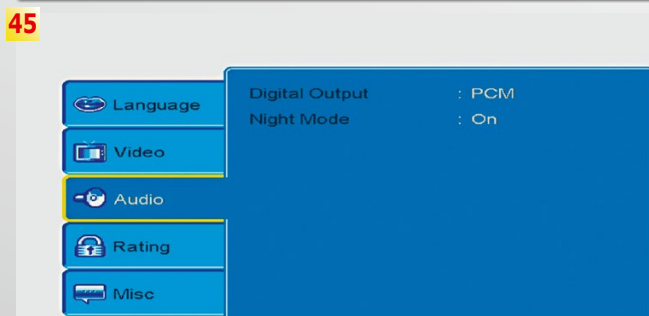
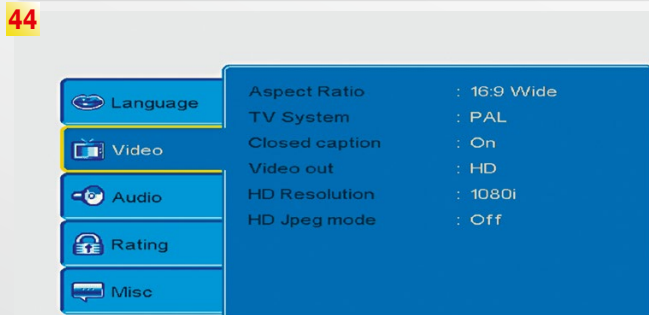
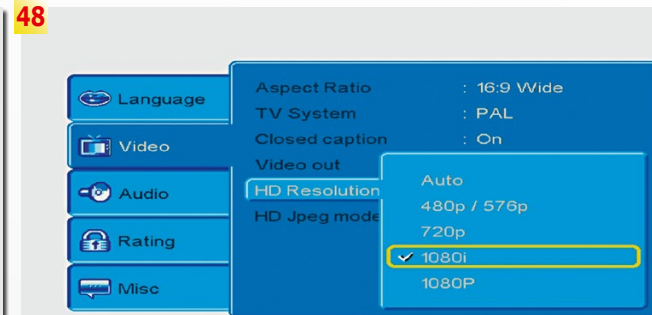
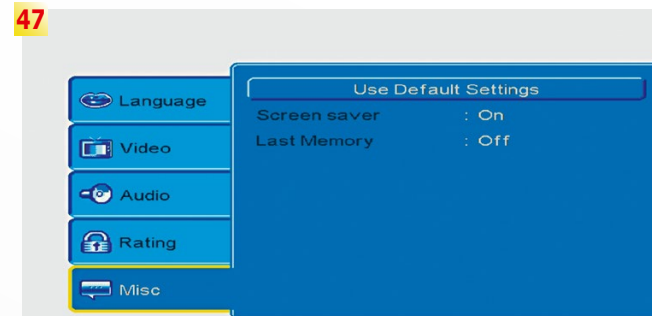
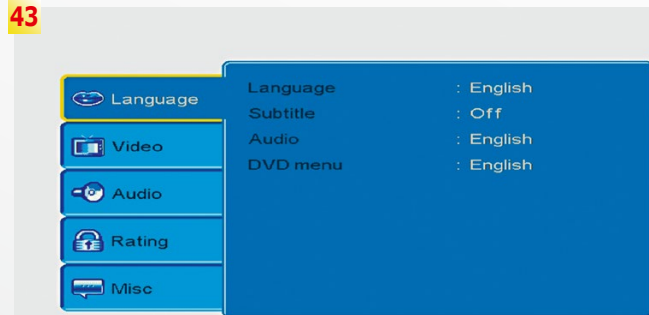


- 25. AVI video playback
- 26. DivX video playback
- 27. Flash video playback
- 28. Full HD video playback
- 29. MOV video playback
- 30. MP4 video playback
- 31. TS video playback
- 32. Channel list of the Panodic DVD320
- 33. The info bar shows the title of the current and next event
- 34. OSD teletext
- 35. Language selection
- 36. Choosing your preferred

- subtitles
- 37. EPG of five channels at a time
- 38. Multi-picture view
- 39. Every time a new recording begins the receiver shows the remaining harddisk capacity
- 40. Two recordings can be made simultaneously. When a third one is attempted an alert message pops up
- 41. Two recordings can be made simultaneously
- 42. All DVD functions, such as different menus, are available



43. Language settings in DVD mode
44. Video output settings in DVD mode
45. Audio output settings in DVD mode
46. Child lock
47. If preferred, the DVD player memorises the position at which playback was last stopped
48. Both in DVD mode and in DVB-T mode video output can set at 1080p (Full HD)
49. Direct selection of DVD chapters
50. The Panodic DVD320 cannot only access multimedia content that is stored on a disc, but also process content fed from an external USB storage medium
51. Various video formats are accepted from an external USB storage medium in DVD mode



In summary, the DVD player turned out to be a reliable buddy for virtually all kinds of DVDs and CDs. It was even capable of playing back a slightly damaged disc that we tried out. And if you enjoy watching DVDs from all corners of the globe we've got another piece of good news for you: The tested DVB-T/DVD box plays back all region codes without any restriction at all.

- The DVB receiver currently only accepts DVB-T signals, the DVD player is not compatible with the Blu-Ray standard.

Active use during the first 15 minutes, followed by 15 minutes in standby mode.

